

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 of the present application remain pending. Claim 7 is cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 1, and 8-22 are amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the Claim amendments.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 9-21 are objected to because the Claims are mis-numbered. The Claims have been amended to correct the mis-numbering. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the above noted objections to Claims 9-22.

CLAIM REJECTIONS 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and Claim 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable by Borza (WO98/12670), hereinafter referred to as "Borza." The Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention recited in Claims 1-4 and Claim 6 are not anticipated by Borza. For example, Claim 1 of the present invention recites:

A method for controlling access to a computer network, comprising:
gaining access to said computer network by use of a portable computing device;
reading biometric data peculiar to a user by the use of a biometric data reader coupled to said portable computing device;
comparing said biometric data to biometric data stored in said computer network for the purpose of identifying the user, and wherein said

biometric data is operable be removed from said portable computing device by a remote station on said computer network; and
denying further access to said computer network if said data comparison fails to identify said user as an authorized user.

Claims 8 and 13 recite similar claim limitations. The Applicants respectfully submit that Borza does not teach or suggest the claim limitation of removable biometric data on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention, as recited in Claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Borza and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is overcome.

Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from Claim 1 and recite additional limitations descriptive of embodiments of the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention, as recited in Claims 2-4 and 6 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Borza and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are also overcome.

CLAIM REJECTIONS 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borza with respect to Kramer (U. S. Patent No. 6,442,286 B1), hereinafter referred to as "Kramer." As discussed above with reference to Claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that Borza does not teach or suggest removable biometric data

on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Kramer fails to overcome the above cited shortcomings of Borza. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that Kramer alone, or in combination with Borza, does not teach or suggest the additional claim limitation of Claim 5 wherein the biometric data comprises one or more measured electrical characteristics. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention, as recited in Claim 1 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Borza alone, or in combination with Kramer and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome.

Claims 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-19, and 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borza with respect to Helferich (U.S. Patent No. 6,087,956), hereinafter referred to as "Helferich." As discussed above with reference to Claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that Borza does not teach or suggest removable biometric data on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Helferich fails to overcome the above cited shortcomings of Borza. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that combining Borza and Helferich does not teach or suggest the recited claim limitation of removable biometric data on a portable computing device which is

operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station of a computer network. Instead, a combination of Borza and Helferich teaches away from the recited claim limitations by suggesting that data is removed from the computer network using the portable computing device. For example, Helferich teaches in column 14, lines 1-12 (emphasis added):

If the erase message is selected at step 116, the erase message function allows a user to erase messages stored at the system 30 or at the paging transceiver 100 depending on the mode of operation. A message may be erased at paging transceiver 100 without erasing the message identifier. If a message is erased at the paging transceiver 100 and the identifier still exists in message 5, the message can be retrieved from the system 30. In order to remove a message identifier at the paging transceiver 100, the message must be erased at the system 30. This feature causes the user to manage the messages at the platform, thereby conserving memory space at the storage and retrieval unit 32.

Thus, as taught by Helferich, the determination of whether the biometric data remains on the portable computing device is made by whoever possesses the portable computing device. As a result, if the portable computing device is stolen, the person who stole the personal computing device has the option of not erasing the biometric data. This poses a security risk because an unauthorized person may be able to access the biometric data and circumvent the security system of the computer network. However, in the embodiments of the present invention recited in Claims 1, 8, and 13, the network administrator can remove the biometric data using the remote station, thereby either disabling the portable computing device or preventing the biometric data from being accessed by unauthorized users.

The rejection states that motivation for combining Borza and Helferich may be to conserve memory space at the portable device. However, embodiments of the

present invention are related to improving the security of a computer network by controlling access by a wireless device. The Applicants respectfully suggest that it is highly unlikely that a method for conserving memory space would be used to improve the security of a computer network. Additionally, the Applicants respectfully submit that neither Borza nor Helferich teach or suggest a combination their inventions in the manner recited in Claims 1, 8, and 13 of the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention, as recited in Claims 7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-19, and 21 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Borza alone, or in combination with Helferich and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are overcome.

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borza in view of Tomko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,912), hereinafter referred to as "Tomko." As discussed above with reference to Claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that Borza does not teach or suggest removable biometric data on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Tomko does not overcome the shortcomings of Borza because Tomko does not teach or suggest removable biometric data on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiment of the present invention, as recited in Claim 8 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Borza

alone, or in combination with Tomko and that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome.

Claims 11, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borza in further view of Helferich and Kramer. As discussed above, the Applicants respectfully submit that neither Borza, Helferich, or Kramer teach or suggest removable biometric data on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention, as recited in Claims 11, 20, and 22 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Borza alone, or in combination with Helferich and Kramer and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are overcome.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Borza in further view of Maes et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,016,476), hereinafter referred to as "Maes." As discussed above with reference to Claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that Borza does not teach or suggest removable biometric data on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Maes fails to overcome the shortcomings of Borza because Maes does not teach or suggest removable biometric

data on a portable computing device which is operable to be removed from the portable computing device by a remote station on a computer network. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiment of the present invention, as recited in Claim 15 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by Borza alone, or in combination with Maes and that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is overcome.

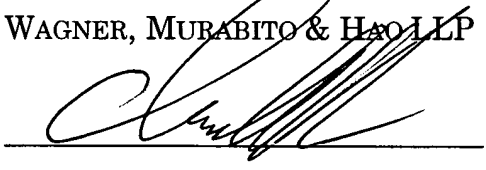
CONCLUSION

Based on the arguments presented above, the Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-22 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, the Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

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Respectfully submitted,
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